

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV EASLEY ANNOUNCES N.C. WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS AMONG BEST IN U.S.** *Expansion Management Magazine Rates North Carolina No. 4 in the Nation*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that North Carolina’s workforce training programs are among the best in the nation, ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. by *Expansion Management* magazine. This ranking adds further proof that Easley’s emphasis on worker training is critical to maintaining the state’s competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining top quality, high-wage companies in North Carolina.

“Education, worker training programs and infrastructure improvements are among the most important elements of North Carolina’s economic development strategy,” Easley said. “Providing a workforce with the knowledge, talent and skill employers need to compete in the global economy brings high quality jobs to hard working North Carolina families and billions in private investment to our state. Since 2001, our state has successfully recruited 163,380 jobs and more than \$26.2 billion in investment.”

*Expansion Management*, a trade publication that focuses on helping companies evaluate potential sites around the nation, listed North Carolina behind only Alabama, Georgia and Texas as the states with the best workforce training programs. Rounding out the Top 10 were South Carolina, Colorado, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arizona and Florida.

The rankings were based on a survey of more than 80 site selection consultants who evaluated worker training programs for their financial value, whether they meet the needs of new companies and whether they are easy to use or mired in red tape. This was the eighth year that the magazine conducted the poll and the seventh year that North Carolina ranked among the top 10 workforce training programs.

“Having a ready supply of educated and trainable workers is still the No. 1 priority for any business executive considering opening up a new facility,” said *Expansion Management* editor Bill King. “Given the enormous capital expense incurred by expanding or relocating a manufacturing facility, any assistance a company can receive from state and local governments to meet its initial training needs may play a decisive role when that company is down to its short list of two or three competing locations and must make a final decision.”

North Carolina is able to provide flexible, customized workforce training to new and expanding companies through the state’s Community College system in conjunction with other public and private workforce development partners, both on the state and local level. In addition, the N.C. Commerce Department has an Incumbent Worker Training Initiative that provides grants to existing companies that wish to upgrade skills of current workers.

The worker training program rankings can be found in the August issue of *Expansion Management*, which is available online at [www.expansionmanagement.com](http://www.expansionmanagement.com).

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